

Minutes  
Newington Town Council Special Meeting  
Goal Setting Session – Part II

February 22, 2012  
Town Hall, Conf. Room L-101  
5:00 p.m.

Mayor Woods called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Councilor Bottalico  
Councilor Borjeson  
Councilor Castelle  
Councilor Cohen  
Councilor DelBuono  
Councilor Klett  
Councilor Nagel  
Councilor McBride  
Mayor Woods

Staff

John Salomone, Town Manager  
Jaime Trevethan, Executive Assistant

Facilitators - Decision Point

Phyllis Rizy  
Paul Decelles

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA**

Holly Harlow – Ms. Harlow asked the Council to consider the health and well-being of the community and the Town's population and to keep an open mind for open space. She cited development in the town of Bethel as an example of letting go of open space.

Gail Budjreko, 21 Isabelle Terrace – Ms. Budjreko asked the Council to include land use and planning associated with open space, promoting open space and minimizing urban sprawl among its goals. She also asked the Council to maintain vigilance over State and Federal land use, especially involving the busway and transit-oriented development. She asked the Council to follow the 2020 Plan of Conservation and Development, protect the Town's resources and maintain it as a small New England community.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – Ms. Lyons commented on the poor sound quality in the conference room. She stated that the Council needs to focus on communication between the various groups and commissions. She also asked the Council to maintain the Town's resources and to remain vigilant on the development of the busway.

**FORMULATION OF LONG AND SHORT-TERM GOALS**

Town Manager Salomone recapped the January 28 goal setting session and explained that the Council would be focusing on both short and long-term goals at this meeting. Facilitators Paul Decelles and Phyllis Rizy of Decision Point gave an overview of the goal-setting process and methods for discussion.

The Town Council discussed short and long-term goals in the following areas:

#### Consolidation/regionalization

- Identify areas of regionalization and consolidation that are within the best interests of town

#### Open Space/Land Use

- Determine parcels that are useful or have historical value to the town/worthwhile to pursue. Prioritize to acquire as much as can be afforded.
- Use of land around Busway property
- Balf property
- Funding: Referendum/State funding

#### Busway

- Actively monitor situation
- Identify positives of situation
- Use as an advantage to obtain state funding
- Form committee to monitor the development of the busway
- Place emphasis on communication from State and to/from public
- Get list of developable land along the busway and ownership
- Determine what type of economic development is feasible along busway/impacts on residential and non-residential developments
- Determine what kind of questions to ask to the DOT
- Determine what the Town can control and what it can do to have influence over the space

#### Communication/Information

- Improve communication to the public and other agencies
- Give full picture of the situation
- Assure that the State and other agencies are communicating properly with the Town
- Council needs to have the information necessary to make good decisions
- Identify and utilize public relations/marketing tools (social media: Face Book/Twitter)
- Lobbying on behalf of the Town/representation. (CCM Membership)
- Use of tablet computers for Council
- Better communication/discussions between the Board of Education and Council

#### Infrastructure (Building) Improvements

- Identify and address the needs of the various Town buildings:
  - Roofs of various Town building
  - Town Hall and Community Center
  - Schools
  - Senior Center
  - Library
  - Historical homes
- Public facilities (i.e. parks)
  - Pools
- Roads
- Referendum: during municipal elections or special election?
- Bonding – consider more projects paid through via bonding. Identify long term bonding projects, CIP, referendum
- Identify pay-as-you go vs. bonding
- Identify priorities
- Consider increasing or updating bonding limit

#### Residents Needs/Programs

- Growing elderly population

### Economic Development

- Create an Economic Development Professional position
- Grant writing
- Grow business tax base
- Identify ways to offer incentives to businesses
- Berlin Turnpike development/keep it thriving
- Address underdeveloped parcels on the Turnpike while addressing traffic
- Attracting businesses to empty buildings:
  - Turnpike
  - Town Center
  - Twin City
  - North end of town
- Create “destinations” in town (i.e. Stew Leonard’s)
- Support and encourage small business
- Promote the type of businesses desirable in each area of the town

### Miscellaneous Items Discussed:

- Suggestion box/employee input
- Fixed expenses/benefits

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA**

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – Ms. Lyons reiterated the importance of communication between the Council, boards and commissions. She urged the Council to consider the Town’s natural resources.

Gail Budjreko, 21 Isabelle Terrace – Ms. Budjreko suggested that the Council to investigate alternative ways to finance the purchase of open space rather than going to referendum, and also look into other ways to communicate rather than through the internet/technology. She stated that the Council should remain vigilant about the busway issue.

### **COMMENTS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Klett thanked the Ms. Rizy and Mr. Decelles for facilitating the two goal-setting meetings.

Councilor Cohen noted that the conference room used to be two smaller rooms and were recently combined to make a larger conference room. Mayor Woods added that he was on the Town Hall Renovations Building Committee and stated that there was not funding in the project for a sound system for the conference room.

Councilor Cohen thanked the Town Manager and Town Attorney Peter Boorman for their efforts in the Cedar Mountain land purchase.

Mayor Woods thanked the facilitators for attending both sessions.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Nagel moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Trevethan  
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager